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SENATE MEMORIAL 78

51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2014

INTRODUCED BY

John Pinto

A MEMORIAL

COMMENDING NAVAJO TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY FOR ITS HISTORY OF
SUCCESS IN SERVING STUDENTS AND FOR ITS EVOLUTION FROM A
THRIVING VOCATIONAL CENTER TO A RESPECTED UNIVERSITY AND
HONORING THE UNIVERSITY FOR ITS ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

WHEREAS, Navajo technical university has a long tradition
of offering educational opportunity to students from its main
campus in Crownpoint, New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the university has seen consistent growth since
the establishment of its predecessor, the Navajo skills center,
which was created to meet a growing demand for training in
vocational trades; and

WHEREAS, after a few years of service to students, in
1985, the Navajo skills center became the Crownpoint institute
of technology, which offered associate degree programs; and

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1 WHEREAS, following significant expansion in higher
2 education services, in 2006, the Crownpoint institute of
3 technology earned the name "Navajo Technical College", which
4 offered a broad curriculum and a second instructional site in
5 Chinle, Arizona; and

6 WHEREAS, in 2010, the college implemented its first
7 baccalaureate degree, a bachelor of applied science in
8 information technology, and celebrated outstanding programs in
9 computer science, digital manufacturing and new media; and

10 WHEREAS, the college was named among the top one hundred
11 twenty community colleges in the United States in 2011 and
12 2012; and

13 WHEREAS, in 2012, the college achieved an outstanding
14 graduation rate of eighty-one percent; and

15 WHEREAS, in August 2013, the Navajo Nation council and
16 Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly authorized the college to
17 begin operations as "Navajo Technical University", the Navajo
18 Nation's first university and the third tribal university in
19 North America; and

20 WHEREAS, the university is particularly proud to be
21 offering bachelor's degrees in computer and electronics
22 engineering, creative writing and new media and a master's
23 degree in Dine culture, language and leadership; and

24 WHEREAS, the university looks forward to the continual
25 development of some of its strongest programs, including

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1 science, technology, engineering, mathematics and Dine studies,
2 and to continuing its record of engaging with the community
3 through internships, sports and community education;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
5 OF NEW MEXICO that Navajo technical university be recognized
6 for its commitment to quality higher education and the
7 community and for preserving Dine culture and for its history
8 of continual growth and evolution; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
10 transmitted to the president of Navajo technical university and
11 Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly.